Week 5 Reflection Assignment

The art of reflection is important both for teachers and for students. We many times need to guide our students through the practice of reflection to help them improve. Sometimes it is difficult for students to reflect and as educators we need to give them careful guidance in the step by step process of reflection. Students sometimes are charging forward so quickly that they do not take time to reflect on what they have learned. We can assist students in practicing the art of reflection by providing time in the lesson cycle for discussion, brainstorming, and going back through the lesson topics. We can quiz students by asking questions in an open environment with focus on all the exercises, projects, and practice that we traveled through exploring a particular lesson topic. We can give further explanation on why we performed certain exercises or projects and what those practices taught them along the way. It is important to encourage students to collaborate with one another possibly discussing ideas and brainstorming with peers. This allows time for student reflection and also allows for sharing of content with a focus on what the student has absorbed in the learning process. Students need to think about their learning (Sackson, 2011).

Reflection is important in the classroom. Teachers can help students through this guided practice and encouragement and give students an understanding of the importance of reflection. We can inform students that it is important to learn through experience. Students all come to the classroom with different prior knowledge. By sharing ideas, brainstorming, collaborating, re-teaching, and reviewing what we have learned, students can better absorb the lesson content and become more skilled at the art of reflection.

I have learned a great deal from the Lamar electronic portfolio coursework on the art of reflection. We have had several occasions where we have been required to reflect on the coursework. I feel that taking that time to reflect on the five weeks is essential in gaining a better perspective of the course content. When covering a lot of material it is very important that there is time allowed for the reflection process. Given the assignment of creating a reflection on the coursework allows you to remember what you have learned and even go a step further to think about utilizing the content you have been taught.

Reflection is so important for a teacher. We can reflect on how we have taught the subject matter and possibly discover new methods and techniques for helping our students gain a better understanding of the lesson topics. Reflection for the teachers allows them to construct meaning from their work (Costa and Kallick, 2000). Teachers are also always learning and reflection definitely helps them to discover new ways to better assist students in the learning process. Technology is ever changing and we need to take time to reflect. This also enables us to search and utilize the best methods of technology in the classroom.

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